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Topic 6: Parts of Speech - CONJUNCTION

EN110

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What is Conjunction?

A conjunction is a word like *and*, *but*, *although*, *because*. Conjunctions have an important function because they join other words and phrases together. Without conjunctions, we could only make very, very simple sentences.

Conjunctions have two basic functions or "jobs":

1. **Coordinating conjunctions** are used to join two parts of a sentence that are grammatically equal. The two parts may be single words or clauses, for example:
 - *Jack **and** Jill* went up the hill.
 - *The water was warm, **but** I didn't go swimming.*

2. **Subordinating conjunctions** are used to join a subordinate dependent clause to a main clause, for example:

Example: I went swimming **although** it was cold.

Coordinating conjunctions	Subordinating conjunctions
and, but, or, nor, for, yet, so	although, because, since, unless

Conjunctions have three basic formats:

1. **single word**

for example: *and, but, because, although*

2. **compound** (often ending with *as* or *that*)

for example: *provided that, as long as, in order that*

3. **correlative** (surrounding an adverb or adjective)

for example: *so...that*

- + **Coordinating conjunctions** always come **between** the words or clauses that they join.

Subordinating conjunctions usually come at the **beginning** of the subordinate clause.

Coordinating Conjunctions

A **coordinating conjunction** joins parts of a sentence (for example words or independent clauses) that are grammatically **equal** or similar. A coordinating conjunction shows that the elements it joins are similar in importance and structure:

There are seven coordinating conjunctions, and they are all short words of only two or three letters:

and, but, or, nor, for, yet, so

- + Look at these examples - the two elements that the coordinating conjunction joins are shown in square brackets []:

1. I like [tea] **and** [coffee].
2. [Ram likes tea], **but** [Anthony likes coffee].

Coordinating conjunctions always come **between** the words or clauses that they join.

When a coordinating conjunction joins independent clauses, it is always correct to place a comma before the conjunction:

Example: I want to work as an interpreter in the future, **so** I am studying Russian at university.

- + However, if the independent clauses are short and well-balanced, a comma is not really essential:
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Example: She is kind **so** she helps people.

When "and" is used with the last word of a list, a comma is optional:

1. He drinks beer, whisky, wine, **and** rum.
2. He drinks beer, whisky, wine **and** rum.

Subordinating Conjunctions

A **subordinating conjunction** joins a subordinate (dependent) clause to a main (independent) clause:

Here are some common subordinating conjunctions:

after, although, as, because, before, how, if, once, since, than, that, though, till, until, when, where, whether, while

+ Look at this example: +



main or independent clause	subordinate or dependent clause	
Ram went swimming	although	it was raining.
	subordinating conjunction	

A subordinating conjunction always comes at the beginning of a subordinate clause. It "introduces" a subordinate clause. However, a subordinate clause can come **after** or **before** a main clause. Thus, two structures are possible:

Ram went swimming **although it was raining.**